

Minutes of the Combined Health & Human Services Committee/Board Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2004

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Sandy Wolff, Jim Jeskewitz, Mareth Kipp, Alicia Silva, Carl Seitz; **Absent:** Paul Pronold

Board Members Present: Citizen Members Dennis Farrell (Chair), Dick Wutt, Dr. John Guy, Mike O'Brien and Supervisors Duane Paulson, Duane Stamsta, Pat Haukohl, Joe Griffin, Vera Stroud; **Absent:** JoAnn Weidmann

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Health and Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Deputy Director Don Maurer, Adolescent and Family Services Division Manager Pat Voss, Adolescent and Family Services Supervisors Jeanette Braun and Jeri Shryock, Clinical Therapist Janice O'Rourke, Budget Analyst Andy Thelke, Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Coordinator Shelly Cyrulik, Clinical Services Division Manager Mike DeMares; AODA Advisory Committee Chair Harlow Bielefeldt, AODA Advisory Committee Member, Mickey Gabbert, Clinical Services Supervisor Bill Graham, Sr. AODA Counselor Gina Bauer, Jane DeGeorge from Catholic Charities who presented the CAFSAC Needs Presentation, Clinical Therapist Eve Altizer, Three Quarter Way House Subcommittee Member Bill Hinsenkamp

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes of March 25, 2004

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, seconded by Wolff to approve the minutes of March 25, 2004. Motion carried 6-0.

Legislative Update

Dave Krahn, Legislative Policy Advisor, handed out a chart outlining the status of 2003 state legislation on health and human services. Dave reviewed the status of these bills and explained which ones had passed and which were now considered dead for the session and how in certain cases they can be brought up again. Those bills with "enrolled" as the status means the governor has the bill on his desk and will either sign or veto it.

Dave also passed out some information on TABOR (taxpayer bill of rights) along with a copy of the Wisconsin Budget Project prepared by Jon Peacock which provides some background information on TABOR. Dave is asking that we get this information to as many people as possible so they can contact their legislators and ask them to vote "against" TABOR. A number of groups have registered against this joint resolution including many local government bodies and associations, Wisconsin Citizen Action, Wisconsin Education Association Council, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families and many other labor groups. "This proposed amendment would restrict the authority of state lawmakers and local officials to increase spending and raise taxes without first getting public approval in a referendum". Assembly Joint Resolution 55 (AJR 55) would amend the Wisconsin Constitution to restrain state and local spending and tax increases. Dave's message is "Don't amend the constitution. Fiscal policy does not belong in the constitution." Proponents of the amendment would like to see it brought to a public vote as soon as April 2005. "What's the rush? This is far too important to hurry

headlong and carelessly oblivious to the potential impact on the future of Wisconsin.” Encourage everyone to contact their legislators.

Announcements

Ken Herro announced that following the board meeting next Tuesday, there will be a farewell gathering for those supervisors who will not be serving in the coming term.

Executive Committee Report

Ann Nischke and Sue Jeskewitz were present at the last Executive Committee meeting on April 5, 2004 to discuss TABOR and how communication between state and county must be improved.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Sandy Wolff made a motion seconded by Mareth Kipp to approve attendance at the upcoming WCHSA conference. Motion carried 6-0.

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Approve Minutes of March 25, 2004

MOTION: Duane Paulson made a motion seconded by Dick Wutt to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2004. Motion carried 9-0.

Announcements

Dennis Farrell announced that the Joint Advisory Committee meeting and farewell luncheon for Ernie Messinger on March 25, 2004 was well attended. It was the first time that we did not run short on cost for the lunch, in fact there was \$23.00 extra and this money will be used toward the lunch when the board presents the Advisory Committee Needs to the County Executive on May 13th.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Duane Paulson made a motion seconded by Duane Stamsta to approve attendance at the upcoming WCHSA conference. Motion carried 9-0.

COMBINED AGENDA ITEMS

Presentation of Family Services

Manager of Adolescent and Family Services Division Pat Voss distributed copies of an introduction to the Family Services Units, staff members, case scenarios, statistics and a truancy flow chart. Pat introduced Family Services Supervisors Jeri Shryock and Jeanette Braun, and Clinical Therapist Janice O'Rourke. Pat gave a brief overview of the Family Services Units including a program description and what services they offer. Part of the packet distributed contained case scenarios which are a random sampling of the types of cases the Units deal with. There is also a copy of Wisconsin State Statutes regarding the juvenile justice code 938.069 referring to the powers and duties of disposition staff. There was a chart showing the numbers of cases served yearly from 1995 to 2003, placement rates from 1998 to 2003, and truancy referrals from 1996 to 2003. A truancy flow chart described the steps taken before the case reaches our doorstep. Caseloads per worker average in the high teens to low twenties. In some cases two workers are involved in a case – a primary and secondary. The primary objective is to teach the

parent to parent. Cases that are referred to us from the Access Unit are usually the more serious cases as noted in the case scenarios. The average time a staff member works with a family is about one year and sometimes a little longer if there are a number of children in the family. After a case is closed, many times the family does come back to share with their social worker how they are doing. In general the county and schools have a good working relationship. Schools are however experiencing a higher level of disturbance because more children are staying in school receiving services in the home rather than being placed in institutions.

There were two cases that were discussed in detail by Jeanette Braun and Janice O'Rourke. It is this kind of work and effort that keeps this county's placement rate low and describes the services provided to the family to keep the family intact. With all of the school budget cuts, those positions that will be affected are the school counselors, social workers, and psychologists and as a result we will begin to experience a larger caseload because that early intervention will no longer be available.

Presentation of CJCC Juvenile Services Committee Juvenile Justice Mapping

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Coordinator Shelly Cyrulik distributed two mapping systems – the green form is the juvenile justice system and the yellow form is the juvenile institution/corrections map. She also passed out the April 2004 monthly activity report of the CJCC and its standing and subcommittees. Mapping is a tool used to identify the pinch points and also serves as an educational tool for those involved in the mapping process. The mapping enables the committee to identify those areas that need improvement and in this case one being restitution, as well as the ability to share information across systems particularly between law enforcement, courts, district attorney, public defender all of which confidentiality comes into play. Fee for service is another issue because it impacts the client. The restitution area is of concern because the juveniles don't always pay their full restitution as ordered by juvenile court. For those juveniles under supervision, they will usually pay between 70 and 80%, but the courts do not think this is good enough. They would like to find ways to get juveniles to pay the entire amount.

Most of the mapping is arrived at by state statutes. Certain areas can be done better and the committee themselves can implement changes to make things run smoother. We are dealing with a number of agencies and departments which is why there are so many different ways to run the course.

The yellow map is for juvenile corrections – Lincoln Hills, Southern Oaks or Ethan Allen in this area. This map follows state statutes and administrative rules. Waukesha County does provide its own juvenile aftercare and we have a social worker that works with each facility and as a result we have been able to reduce the average length of stay. We have developed a good rapport with the agencies and have been able to develop programs and plans for the children in these correctional facilities.

Ways to Work

A handout was provided to committee members prior to the meeting and the board members received this in February and it was discussed at the February 19, 2004 board meeting. County Executive Finley designated Peter Schuler and Don Maurer to learn more about the program

requirements and the process for application for these federal funds. The “Ways to Work” program has a long history that was first initiated in 1984 by the State of Minnesota’s McKnight Foundation. Waukesha/Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul have been approached regarding their interest in seeking federal Department of Transportation funding for the establishment of the Ways to Work loan program. Federal funds available for this purpose require a match which can come from a variety of sources (federal, state, and local funds) currently spent on screening activities for individuals applying for W-2, Food Stamps, Energy Assistance, etc. as well as funds of non profit partners, foundations and other sources. In Waukesha County the grant would actually go to Lutheran Social Services who would act as the lead agency. Another party would be our W-2 agency, ACS, which is also seen as potential referral sources of applicants and a source of matching funds. The program focuses on low-income persons who need a car or car repairs for the purpose of transportation to work. Board members reflected on concerns for proper insurability of the participants, expressed a preference for repairs versus used car purchases. It will be quite some time before Congress makes a decision on these funds for 2005/2006.

Child and Family Services Advisory Committee Needs Presentation

Jane DeGeorge gave the presentation of the Child and Family Services Advisory Committee Needs on behalf of the Committee Chair, Barb Holtz. She passed out copies of the 2005 Needs List and some supportive documents. The Committee’s first and foremost request is for the continuation of services. The list of needs included expanding programs to assist families in maintaining their housing stability because of the shortage of low-income housing and the wait list for rent assistance is now between 3 and 5 years. They are asking for a Change Reporting Center (as piloted in several other counties) to handle clients’ calls to workers to provide required changes in their circumstances, i.e. address and income changes. This would enable IM workers to handle their 350+ cases more efficiently. Dane County is using this type of center and the results have been very positive. The cost would be approximately \$40,000. Other needs include the increase of services to the SED population, develop a flexible fund to provide transition services to assist youth and young adults obtain independent living, and funding to ensure adequate staffing of the 211 line to counteract the increase in call volume.

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Committee Needs Presentation

Harlow Bielefeldt, Chair of the AODA Advisory Committee thanks the board and committee for their continued support. Mickey Gabbert, an AODA Advisory Committee member gave a powerpoint presentation on the need for a “Sober House”, a residential living environment for individuals in recovery. We spend thousands of dollars for therapy, treatment centers, and halfway houses, and yet some individuals who complete their primary treatment will continue to use shortly after discharge. Every individual is different and requires different levels of treatment. What we are lacking is a cost effective approach to preventing relapse. “Sober House” would offer the individual a community sober social support network without professional treatment staff. Individuals who need this type of setting include those without a stable sober, social, support network, those individuals with minimal employer support/inadequate income, those with co-existing issues including loss, grief, homelessness. Individuals that would qualify must be motivated toward recovery and have successfully complete primary treatment for addiction. The house will be limited to three non-related individuals residing in the same facility so as to avoid being identified as a “rooming house” and it can be classified as a level of care and eliminate the issues regarding eviction. Individuals will

work and pay a portion of expenses and residency restriction will be one year. Requirements would include continued abstinence, involvement in continued counseling, involved in community support groups, agreement to continued monitoring. Statistics prove that it is not the intensity of treatment but the increased length of treatment that provides for significant increases in recovery rates.

Adjournment

MOTION: Stamsta made a motion seconded by Griffin to adjourn the meeting of the Health and Human Services Board. Motion carried.

Recorded by Kathy Leach.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary for the Committee